

§ 1783.10

needs demonstrated in the work plan; previous experiences demonstrating excellent utilization of a revolving loan fund grant; and optimizing the use of agency resources. Up to 10 points.

(c) All qualifying applications under this part will be scored based on the criteria contained in this section. Awards will be made based on the highest ranking applications and the amount of financial assistance available for RFP grants. All applicants will be notified of the results in writing on form AD-622.

§ 1783.10 What is the grant agreement?

RUS and the grant recipient will enter into a contract setting forth the terms and conditions governing a particular RFP grant award. RUS will furnish the form of grant agreement. No funds awarded under this part shall be disbursed to the grant recipient before the grant agreement is binding and RUS has received a fully executed counterpart of the grant agreement.

§ 1783.11 What is the revolving loan fund?

The grant recipient shall establish and maintain a revolving loan fund for the purposes set forth in §1783.12. The revolving loan fund shall be comprised of revolving loan fund grant funds and the grant recipient's contributed funds. All revolving loan fund loans made to loan recipients shall be drawn from the revolving loan fund. All revolving loan fund loans shall be serviced and the revolving loan fund maintained, in accordance with this part and applicable law.

§ 1783.12 What are eligible uses of grant proceeds?

(a) Grant proceeds shall be used solely for the purpose of establishing the revolving loan fund to provide loans to eligible entities for:

- (1) Pre-development costs associated with proposed water and wastewater projects or with existing water and wastewater systems, and
- (2) Short-term costs incurred for replacement equipment, small-scale extension of services, or other small capital projects that are not part of the regular operations and maintenance

7 CFR Ch. XVII (1-1-10 Edition)

activities of existing water and wastewater systems.

(b) A grant recipient may not use grant funds in any manner inconsistent with the terms of the grant agreement.

§ 1783.13 What administrative expenses may be funded with grant proceeds?

RFP grant funds may not be used for any purposes not described in §1783.12, including, without limitation, payment or reimbursement of any of the grant recipient's administrative costs or expenses. Administrative expenses may, however, be paid or reimbursed from revolving loan fund assets that are not RFP grant funds, including revolved funds and cash originally contributed by the grant recipient.

Subpart C—Revolving Fund Program Loans

§ 1783.14 What are the eligibility criteria for RFP loan recipients?

(a) A loan recipient must be an eligible entity as defined in §1783.3.

(b) The loan recipient must be unable to finance the proposed project from their own resources or through commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms.

(c) The loan recipient must have or will obtain the legal authority necessary for owning, constructing, operating and maintaining the proposed service or facility, and for obtaining, giving security for, and repaying the proposed loan.

(d) The project funded by the proceeds of an RFP loan must be located in, or the services provided as the result of such project must benefit, rural areas.

§ 1783.15 What are the terms of RFP loans?

(a) RFP loans under this part—

(1) Shall have an interest rate that is determined by the grant recipient and approved by RUS;

(2) Shall have a terms not to exceed 10 years; and

(3) Shall not exceed the lesser of \$100,000 or 75 percent of the total cost of a project. The total outstanding balance for all loans under this program